

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed October 21, 2003. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2 – 9 and 18 - 28 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has added claims 18 - 28, has amended claims 2 and 4 – 8, and has canceled claims 1 and 10 - 17 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 10 - 17 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2 – 4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claim 4 which serves as a base claim for claims 2, 3 and 6, and respectfully asserts that claims 2 – 4 and 6 are still in condition for allowance.

In the Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings have been accepted.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by *Meek*. As set forth before, Applicant has canceled claim 1, and has amended claims 5 and 7 such that claims 5 and 7 now depend from a claim that has indicated as being allowable. Applicant respectfully asserts, therefore, that the rejection has been rendered moot.

Newly Added Claims

In this response, Applicant has added claims 18 – 28. Since each of these claims depends from and, therefore, includes all of the features/ limitations of the claim(s) from which they depend, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.


Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 2 – 9 and 18 - 28 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

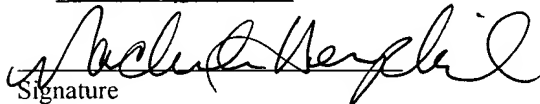
Respectfully submitted,



M. Paul Qualey, Jr., Reg. No. 43, 024

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
100 Galleria Parkway N.W., Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on Nov. 26. 03.


Signature